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on Wednesday, 17 July 1996, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(f) POPULATION QUESTIONS (continued) (E/1996/25)

Mrs. BEKELE (World Health Organization) said that reproductive health was a crucial component of general health. It affected women, in particular, and had substantial inter-generational effects. The World Health Organization (WHO) was therefore strengthening its efforts to promote reproductive health and to reduce the unacceptably high levels of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, which was primarily the result of inadequate care during pregnancy and childbirth. It was also combating the problems of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, the genital mutilation of girls and young women, and the large numbers of people without access to safe, effective and affordable methods of family planning.

The Division of Reproductive Health of WHO, which focused on technical support activities, such as training, advocacy, information, standard setting, monitoring and evaluation, collaborated with the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, which was the main instrument within the United Nations system for research in human reproduction, in order to provide better support to countries. The new programmatic structure of WHO and the Organization's increased emphasis on reproductive health reflected the concerns which the international community had expressed in such forums as the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Ms. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)), replying to questions raised earlier by members of the Council, said that UNFPA had been expanding its contacts with other non-governmental organizations, academics, and parliamentary and other groups at the country level, while building on the foundations established during the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development. It was working

closely with the International Organization on Migration (IOM), for example, to develop common statistical databases on the origins of migration.

A number of questions had been asked about the working relationship between the three follow-up inter-agency task forces established at the Cairo Conference. Collaboration among the three task forces was good, particularly with respect to the development of methodologies at the country level for the monitoring of programme management. In that connection, countries should not be burdened with requests for data which were either impossible to compile because of limited national capacities or irrelevant to the countries' own programme management. It was more important to develop the statistical systems of the countries concerned than to fulfil the reporting requirements of the United Nations system.

On the question of reproductive health indicators, she had decided to undertake country-level consultations to determine whether the proposed indicators were practicable and appropriate before they were incorporated into guidelines. Other groups from the academic and governmental sectors had been involved in the effort to develop a standard set of indicators for use by both Governments and bilateral donors.

On the question of the role and reporting requirements of the task forces, it was essential to clarify a number of questions, such as to whom did the task forces report and on what topics. Speaking as Chairman of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD, she was concerned about the excessive reporting demands being placed on her group. Steps must therefore be taken to rationalize the work of the Task Forces and, in particular, their reporting requirements. She expected the Task Force which she chaired to be dissolved after the submission of its report, even though it might be required to meet again from time to time to respond to requests from the field for information on specific topics.

She agreed with the representative of Japan that the Council must adopt a holistic approach in its discussions of development strategies so that macroeconomic policies are not treated separately from social investments and social outputs. The issue of prioritizing population and development activities involved a false choice, since population programmes were an integral component of development activities. Such programmes should emphasize development rather than monetary goals and should be reviewed annually. Agencies should also be

requested to produce a single annual report instead of a series of reports for different bodies.

In response to the question posed by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire concerning HIV/AIDS, she said that the subject of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, had been covered in the ICPD guidelines.

With regard to the division of labour among the various agencies, she hoped that the forthcoming guidelines would take account of the particular strengths of each organization.

Finally, the United Nations system had at its disposal a wealth of information on methodologies and guidelines of various types. The inter-agency task forces could perhaps play a role in organizing that information with a view to facilitating its use.

Mr. CHAMIE (Director, Population Division, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis) said that the Population Division was currently reappraising the shape, content and structure of its programme of work as it had been requested to do by the Commission on Population and Development. To that end, it had invited suggestions from the members of the Commission and would report to the Commission in February 1997.

International migration was a complex subject, since the relationship between migration and development depended on a number of different factors, including the magnitude of the migration flows, the time periods involved, the level of social and economic development of the sending and receiving countries, and the characteristics of the migrants themselves. The lack of relevant information sometimes hindered the Division's work and steps had been taken to involve as many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as possible in its programmes.

His Division was carrying out studies on various aspects of HIV/AIDS, including its demographic impact and in particular its impact on Africa. The Division also worked closely with UNAIDS and actively participated in efforts to combat the scourge.

Ms. SADIK (Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund) said that international migration was not only a demographic but also a developmental issue. Even though ICPD had focused on the demographic aspect, it was essential to take into consideration all the economic, ecological, political and other aspects of the problem.

Responding to the matter raised by Belarus and the Russian Federation she said that the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA had agreed to devote between 5 and 7 per cent of the Fund's resources to countries with economies in transition. The Fund was fully aware of the genetic and environmental problems afflicting Belarus in particular and had agreed to finance a relevant study in conjunction with WHO. Similar work was being undertaken in the Central Asian republics.

In answer to questions about the use of the Fund's guidelines and their relationship to the country strategy note, she admitted that on several occasions in the past the guidelines had not been acted upon in the proper manner. However, the picture was changing and UNFPA was increasingly receiving positive feedback. A number of resident coordinators had found them very useful. She was convinced that the guidelines would prove to be an invaluable tool in the future.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in chapter 1, section A, of document E/1996/25 entitled "Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development".

It was so decided.

Ms. SADIK (United Nations Population Fund) asked whether the Council intended to reach a decision on reporting requirements to the various functional commissions, and who exactly should report to which commission.

Mr. KHAN (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the Council was scheduled to discuss the implementation of resolution 50/227 on restructuring and reform of the economic and social sector. It also intended to hold consultations on harmonizing the work programmes of the functional commissions. Both of those items would subsequently be taken up in informal consultations.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision contained in chapter 1, section B, of document E/1996/25 entitled "Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its twenty-ninth session and provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission."

It was so decided.

(h) INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (A/51/186-E/1996/80)

Mr. ELO (Director, International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/51/186-E/1996/80), said that there were increasing signs that Governments were incorporating natural disaster reduction into their national development plans. That trend augured well for achieving the goals of the Decade. There was an overriding requirement to promote the full integration of natural disaster reduction as an integral component in sustainable development efforts. In that regard, the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action must be included and acted upon in the international community's implementation of the action plans of the recent series of world conferences in the fields of economic and social development. Indeed, disaster reduction and vulnerability to natural, ecological and technological hazards must be firmly incorporated within the evaluation and overall review of Agenda 21, to be undertaken at the special session of the General Assembly in 1997.

Disaster reduction within the context of human settlements and sustainable urbanization was a particular area which required close cooperation. The implementation of the Habitat agenda adopted at Habitat II in Istanbul, and the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action must go hand in hand in order to make human settlements, especially cities, a safer place in the twenty-first century.

The trend towards heightened natural disaster reduction awareness and activities experienced within the non-governmental, scientific and private sectors following the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, must be secured and built upon as the ultimate success of the International Decade depended upon the full participation and involvement of all concerned sectors. In that regard, he appealed to the international community to continue providing political and substantive support for the goals of the International Decade.

Mrs. CHAVES (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that natural disasters could cause considerable devastation in developing countries largely because of the latter's lack of preparedness. Measures to enhance and strengthen national and regional institutions so as to increase capacities to mitigate the adverse effects of natural phenomena would not only save lives, but would also reduce the need for emergency assistance.

Natural disaster reduction must be part of sustainable development planning. In that regard, the Group recognized the efforts of the partners in the International Decade Framework and the International Decade secretariat to raise awareness of the linkages between natural disaster reduction and all aspects of sustainable development.

The Group welcomed the transparent manner in which the International Decade secretariat had carried out consultations with Governments and other United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, and hoped to see the continuation of that dialogue. Due consideration should be given to the recommendation in the Secretary-General's report that the International Decade and the results of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction should be integrated in the coordinated approach towards the implementation of and follow-up to all recent major United Nations conferences and summits.

The Group of 77 had noted with concern that the work of the Decade secretariat continued to be hampered by insufficient financial resources and recognition. The Decade secretariat should be provided with adequate resources to carry out its task in coordination with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. The Group would also like to be assured that funding of relief activities was not made at the experse of financing for development activities. In that context, the international community should demonstrate its political determination to mobilize the resources necessary and use existing scientific and technical knowledge to mitigate natural disasters, bearing in mind the particular needs of developing countries.

Mr. GRANT (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, reiterated the European Union's continuing support for the activities of the International Decade. The European Union believed that as an important cross-sectoral issue in the field of development, natural disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation measures needed to be fully integrated into the sustainable development process, in particular through the established coordination and planning mechanisms of the United Nations system. The European Union welcomed the recognition given in the report to the role of private enterprise in achieving and sustaining the goals of the International Decade and also wished to highlight the equally important role of civil society. It welcomed the more active involvement of those sectors in the increasing diversity and variety of initiatives at the country and local levels in the

field of natural disaster reduction and also wished to stress the importance of improved cooperation at the regional level, particularly of technical experience in the information and communication fields.

The European Union recognized the importance of education and training in the prevention of natural disasters and looked forward to the result of the joint meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and Inter-Agency Steering Committee of the International Decade to be hosted by UNESCO in Paris. The European Union stressed the importance of building on the lessons learned from Yokohama, in particular, it wished to see as wide a participation as possible to allow all concerned sectors of society input into the preparatory process. The Union believed that examining the success of current coordination arrangements and looking at possibilities for improving them in the future was an important part of that process. It wished to emphasize the importance of the initiative contained in General Assembly resolutions 49/22 B and 50/117 B on the development and strengthening of early warning capacities and encouraged all States to cooperate in the efforts of the International Decade to develop and improve those capacities and to achieve better cooperation, coordination and dissemination of information in that area among all relevant actors.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (continued)

(c) JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS/ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (E/1996/42)

Mr. PIOT (Executive Director, Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) said that the recent international conference on AIDS held in Vancouver had focused attention on the truly global dimension of the AIDS epidemic. Two encouraging pieces of news had emerged from the conference: it had been announced that new drugs were now capable of stabilizing the disease, even though they were too costly to be used in the developing world, and that investment in AIDS prevention had at last started to pay dividends.

The recent achievements of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme had been concentrated in the fields of advocacy, coordination of United Nations efforts, technical cooperation and best practices, dissemination and development. A memorandum of understanding had been signed by all six co-sponsors which regulated their mutual relations and provided the legal basis for the work of the Programme. Rather than setting up an entirely new agency, the Programme

made use of WHO facilities at the global level and UNDP facilities at country level, particularly with regard to staffing.

The Programme Coordinating Board of the Programme had established two informal working groups, one to discuss innovative methods of resource mobilization and the other to work on indicators and evaluation. The participation in the Programme's work of representatives of non-governmental organizations had been particularly useful. In addition, the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations had focused on developing legal arrangements and ways to improve cooperation at the country level.

Pursuant to the strategic plan for the Programme for 1996-2000, United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS had been established in 112 countries. The theme groups were the basic coordination mechanism in the United Nations fight against AIDS, and they were gradually moving from simple information exchange to joint action. In a limited number of countries, the activities of the United Nations theme group had led directly to increased support and funding for national AIDS programmes. However, there had been significant problems of communication between the various co-sponsoring organizations. In addition, there had been some confusion regarding the precise role of the theme groups, which were simply coordinating mechanisms within the United Nations system and not implementing agencies. Further problems were lack of resources at the country level to cover the operating costs of theme groups, and the fact that each co-sponsoring organization had different planning cycles and divergent approaches to planning and programming.

Country programme advisers were currently in place in 25 of the 42 countries targeted, and they were having a demonstrable impact on coordination activities. In the field of technical cooperation, the Programme had set up inter-country support teams which made it easier to mobilize technical expertise in a particular region. The concept of best practices involved prioritization, avoidance of duplication, and the achievement of harmonization and complementarity with co-sponsoring organizations. Several inter-agency working groups had been established, occasionally involving United Nations agencies that were not co-sponsors of the Programme, to target areas such as education, gender issues, and young people living in especially difficult circumstances. The Programme had also been instrumental in setting up a task force on epidemiology and surveillance.

In terms of advocacy and communication, one of the Programme's principal objectives had been to increase political commitment to combating the AIDS epidemic. In that connection relevant declarations of political principle had been made by the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the Group of Seven.

The Programme was funded entirely through voluntary contributions. Co-sponsoring organizations had made significant contributions either in kind - particularly in the form of personnel secondment - or in cash, and the response of certain non-traditional donors such as China and South Africa had been encouraging. However, certain co-sponsoring organizations were themselves experiencing severe financial difficulties. In addition, some had shown reluctance to invest in anti-AIDS campaigns at national level since the Programme was perceived as being solely responsible for such efforts.

Ms. BROWNE (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, reiterated the European Union's support for the Programme which was an important example of how the United Nations system could work in a coordinated manner at all levels. While recognizing that the ultimate responsibility for the coordination of HIV/AIDS issues at the country level belonged with national Governments, her delegation nevertheless hoped that coordination and cooperation between national Governments and the different United Nations agencies could be further intensified.

Even though the Programme was still at an early stage, her delegation would have welcomed more details regarding the situation at the field level, for example how well the co-sponsoring organizations were working together and how the fight against the disease itself was progressing.

The European Union noted with satisfaction that almost every African country currently had a national AIDS programme, and it welcomed the recent initiative launched jointly by the Programme and UNICEF to strengthen the capacity of children and their families to cope with HIV/AIDS.

The European Union noted that the Programme's financial situation remained precarious and stressed the importance of securing a more stable financial base for it. Her delegation was also concerned by the low level of resources provided and by the fact that most of the contributions had been in kind.

Mr. WANG Qun (China) welcomed the significant progress made by the Programme in recent months. In order for the Programme to be effectively implemented, the six co-sponsors should enhance their coordination and

cooperation on the basis of comparative advantage so as to contribute to a consistent policy and programme of work both at headquarters and field level. Institutional coordination, especially at the country level, was also very important. In that connection the relationship between the resident coordinator and the theme groups should be clarified.

Cooperation between national governments and theme groups should be further intensified. The theme group, as the Programme's operating body at the field level, should incorporate the work undertaken by the Programme at the global level on policy and strategy into its field activities, while maintaining consistency with national plans, priorities and objectives. Likewise, any activities undertaken by the Programme at the field level should be compatible with national conditions. To that end, the Programme should enter into closer cooperation with national Governments. National Governments' representation in each of the theme groups should be further encouraged.

To support national efforts to prevent and control HIV/AIDS, national capacity-building should be promoted. His Government commended the Programme's efforts in identifying that area as one of its objectives and the measures it had taken to provide training courses for national programme officers. The scope of such training courses should be expanded. In addition, technical and financial assistance were essential if national capacities were to be strengthened in that regard.

Mobilization of adequate resources was another issue of prime importance in the implementation of the Programme. His delegation welcomed the Programme's efforts to find new ways of generating funds. His delegation also took note of the Programme's measures to minimize administrative costs, hoping that such a move would contribute to an effective use of resources.

Mr. OUATTARA (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, while some hopeful signs had emerged from the recent ninth international conference on HIV/AIDS the situation was far from under control. The rapid spread of the infection in developing countries was creating a new distinction between industrialized and poor countries, and long-term projections of rates of infection were a cause for deep concern.

The Executive Director should be congratulated for the tremendous progress achieved in just a year, both at Headquarters and at the field level, in laying the legal and operational groundwork for the Programme. The close cooperation

among the Executive Director and the heads of the six co-sponsoring organizations was an excellent illustration of the type of cooperation desired between the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations system. Governments, however, should be made full partners in its endeavours, not merely observers.

His Government welcomed the recent steps taken by the Programme in Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen national structures to combat the disease, and it looked forward to the establishment of a regional office for West Africa at Abidjan.

His Government placed high priority on cooperation with all countries and international institutions in the fight against AIDS. In that regard, new and promising therapies should not remain beyond the reach of most infected people because of their cost or concerns over patents. There should be no question of unequal care in the international efforts to combat the epidemic. The AIDS virus did not recognize borders, and fragmented efforts would promote its spread.

In conclusion, he urged the Secretariat and its specialized departments to strengthen their own commitment to the fight against the epidemic, and to take its impact into account in all approaches to development.

Mr. DUNLAVEY (United States of America) said that, as a donor, his country was pleased with the great strides achieved during the start-up phase of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS. The Programme had reached the point where it was ready to begin fulfilling the role intended for it.

With regard to concerns expressed about financing, he urged patience and confidence, as the Programme had only been in existence since 1 January 1996.

Mr. ACEMAH (Uganda) said that while some countries could claim that they had succeeded in sensitization and education, it was clear from the available information that the rate of HIV/AIDS infection continued to increase. It would seem therefore that not enough was as yet being done in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Uganda had been disappointed, at the first meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board, to hear it being suggested that, as a result of the establishment of the Programme, less funds would be allocated to run it. The Board had actually approved a smaller budget as a result. He called for the matter to be reviewed at the earliest opportunity, stressing again that adequate

resources were needed in the fight against AIDS. Recalling that, in its recent presentation, the Malawi country team had decried the funding gap that had developed since the end of the Global Programme on AIDS, he said that that gap existed in all countries.

Turning to specific proposals, his delegation would like to see a more focused consideration of the progress of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which must be facilitated by an appropriate report covering the work of the Programme and all other partners and the economic and social impact on affected countries. The issue should be considered annually by the Council, and in the near future, HIV/AIDS should constitute the theme for the high-level segment. Secondly, more effective Secretariat involvement was needed at Headquarters. If it was agreed that intervention was necessary on all fronts, then it must be acknowledged that it would require oversight responsibility at the Secretariat level.

Ms. SIELY (Australia) said that her Government was fully committed to the success of the Programme. At the country level, all of the co-sponsors should be involved in thematic groups, and her delegation was concerned that certain co-sponsors were not actively participating and not contributing financially at the country level. The Programme did not have the means to influence policy and tackle strategic application; that responsibility required a higher level of Secretariat involvement. The issue should remain on the Council's agenda, and the impact of the Programme should be discussed the following year.

Mr. PANKIN (Russian Federation) said that his delegation fully supported the efforts of the Executive Director of the Programme and welcomed the signing of the memorandum of understanding and the definition of the responsibilities of the Programme Coordinating Board. The Programme was a clear example of concrete inter-agency cooperation in a specific area on a problem with global implications. His delegation believed, however, that WHO should continue to take a lead role in medical and scientific areas of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

His Government fully supported the Programme and was studying the possibility of making a financial contribution, which would include training of Russian specialists. The fight against HIV/AIDS was among the priorities of its national health strategy, and a Federal prevention programme had been

established to cover the period 1996-2000. His Government was prepared to cooperate with all other countries and organizations in the fight against AIDS.

Mr. GERUS (Belarus) said that the establishment of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS would help to consolidate the efforts of the specialized agencies, and strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to find new ways to treat the disease. His delegation welcomed the signing of the memorandum of understanding and the agreement between the Programme and UNDP concerning administrative and support services. It was pleased that emphasis was being placed on activities at the country level, as demonstrated by the establishment of the theme groups and the appointment of 13 country advisers.

While it was too early to assess the activities of the Programme, its financial needs should receive the Council's ongoing attention.

Mrs. NASCIMBENE de DUMONT (Argentina) said that her delegation supported the Programme and commended its progress, particularly at the country level. The interdisciplinary approach it had taken was the only approach that was truly effective; Argentina had adopted that same approach in its own national fight against AIDS.

Mr. BORDA (Colombia) said that the AIDS epidemic was growing and was having a greater impact on developing countries. His delegation was pleased that resources were being allocated for the new Programme. In Colombia, the co-sponsoring agencies had participated in various joint programmes with the Ministry of Health, which had responsibility for the government response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The health sector would welcome technical support for the objectives of the medium-term plan on HIV/AIDS. Colombia would be willing to participate in a working group to evaluate programme activities. The exchange of international experience and techniques on combating HIV/AIDS was very important to the formation of national strategies.

In conclusion, his Government would welcome the establishment of a regional office for the Andes region in Colombia, and was prepared to offer all necessary cooperation.

Ms. ENGELBRECHT (South Africa) said that her Government had demonstrated its support for the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS by making a three-year financial commitment. Adequate resources were vital to the success of the Programme.

Mr. PIOT (Executive Director, Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) said that he sensed some confusion about the role of the theme groups and their relationship to the national authorities. Government participation had been recommended from the very beginnings of the Programme. A review of progress at the country level on a regional basis would begin in August; the first region considered would be Asia. The focus of the Programme had been placed on national capacity-building because countries were facing a long-term problem requiring a development approach. All efforts were conducted within the framework of the national AIDS strategy.

He noted the disappointment expressed by the representative of Uganda regarding the funding gap and said that while some countries had experienced a major increase in the amount of national resources allocated to combat AIDS, that had not happened in all cases. The trend in financial support was currently moving upward. Emphasis had been placed on a shift in resource mobilization from external to country funds, and the Programme was looking to the United Nations funds for available country-specific resources. In his view, the limited resources of the Programme should be used as seed funds and to mobilize other resources. One planned activity was a series of workshops and training in resource mobilization aimed at the non-governmental organization sector.

Concerning a stronger role of the Programme and collaboration with the United Nations Secretariat, he noted that in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 94/24, the Programme had a mandate for coordination with its co-sponsors and for system-wide coordination. While stronger collaboration with the political arm of the United Nations was necessary, no additional coordination mechanisms, bureaucratic layers or staff should be added.

The establishment of a liaison office would tremendously boost contacts with the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations agencies and programmes in New York. Close collaboration had been established with United Nations agencies and bodies that were not co-sponsoring the Programme, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Commission on Human Rights.

Commenting on the remarks of a number of delegations that insufficient financial commitments had been made by the co-sponsors, he noted that each

co-sponsor had a different mandate and that some were in the midst of a financial crisis. However, they could do more at the country level.

Referring to the recommendation of the representative of Uganda concerning an annual report on the response to the epidemic, he announced that the Programme had started working on a report on the state of the epidemic and the response of individual countries to the epidemic; the report would be published on a regular basis.

Mr. KHAN (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development), said that the Secretariat's role in the Programme had been limited because the Secretariat was not one of the co-sponsors. However, it did participate in the inter-agency advisory group on AIDS, was involved in policies relating to ensuring harmonization or coordinated guidelines for the United Nations system on personnel matters, and its Population Division had done extensive work on the demographic impact of the pandemic. The Economic and Social Council had an important role in system-wide coordination. HIV/AIDS had been a theme of the coordination segment a few years previously and the Council might wish to re-examine the issue again in the larger context of international policies, their coordination and their impact in terms of implementation.

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES (continued) (E/1996/L.23)

Mr. ABDELLATIF (Egypt) introduced draft resolution E/1996/L.23 on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlement on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.